

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00534 091828Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

----- 081728

R 091455Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4628

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AEBMXSUL JOHANNESBURG 2553

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE JEWO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0534

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: VORSTER PATS HIMSELF ON BACK, SAYS "PEACE

OFFENSIVE" HAS HAD MAJOR SUCCESSES

DEPT PASS TO OTHER AF POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS CLAIMED A
SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORTS AT DETENTE. HE
SAYS HE HAS MADE REAL PROGRESS IN "BUILDING BRIDGES" WITH
AFRICAN STATES, MORE COUNTRIES ARE NOW AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE CAPE SEA ROUTE, AND THERE IS GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF
SOUTH AFRICA'S SOUTH WEST AFRICA POLICY. HE ALSO HAS STATED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00534 091828Z

THAT THERE IS SUCH A DEGREE OF RAPPORT BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE

SOUTH AFRICANS THAT "ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS" BETWEEN THEM CAN BE SOLVED. THE EMBASSY IS IN LESS THAN FULL AGREEMENT WITH VORSTER'S ASSESSMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH CAPE TOWN NEWSPAPER, THE ARGUS, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SINGLED OUT THREE MAJOR CHANGES THAT HAD OCCURRED SINCE HE LAUNCHED HIS "PEACE OFFENSIVE." FIRST, THE "BUILDING OF BRIDGES" WITH AFRICAN STATES BY SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REALIZATION BY SOME AFRICAN STATES THAT THEIR OWN BEST ECONOMIC INTERESTS DEMANDED THAT THEY BUY IN NEAREST AND CHEAPEST MARKET, I.E., SOUTH AFRICA. VORSTER SAID: "IN GENERAL OUR INTEGRITY AT PRESENT STANDS BEYOND QUESTION....SOME AFRICAN STATES ALSO REALIZE THAT NOTHING IS TO BE GAINED BY THREATS AND SHOUTS AND THAT IT IS DEST, IF POSSIBLE, TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING, AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS NOT OUT OF WEAKNESS--ON THE CONTRARY. THIS WOULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING NOT MAINLY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, BUT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED STATES."

3. SECOND, THERE HAD BEEN A "TOTALLY NEW APPRAISAL" BY SOME MAJOR POWERS (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH) OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CAPE SEA ROUTE. REGARDING THIS HE SAID: "THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE STRESSED FOR YEARS. VIETNAM, THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL, THE RECENT EXERCISES BY THE SOVIET NAVY --ALL THIS HAS A LOT TO DO WITH IT. THERE IS ALSO THE KNOWLEDGE, OR FEAR, THAT THIS VERY IMPORTANT ARTERY MAY BE CUT FOR EUROPE. IN ADDITION THERE IS THE DEPENDENCE ON RAW MATERIALS--ALL THESE FACTORS PLEYED A PART, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT SOME POLITICIANS ARE NOW PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THE MILITARY EXPERTS THAN IN TIMES GONE BY."

4. THIRD, VORSTER averred that "THERE IS A VERY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA." HE WENT ON TO SAY: "TAKE THE STAND OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO SWAPO AND SAM NUJOMA, THE LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SWAPO WAS SOUTH WEST AND SAM NUJOMA WAS THE BIG MOGUL. THIS ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED VERY MUCH."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00534 091828Z

5. VORSTER SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE WOULD BE DECIDED IN THE NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS. IN THIS REGARD HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL SITUATION HAD A BEARING ON ITS EXTERNAL RELATIONS, "ONE MUST NOT CONFUSE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SITUATIONS OR EQUATE THEM TOO MUCH." HE CLAIMED THAT "INTERNAL WE HAVE ESTABLISHED RAPPORT TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT WE CAN SOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS TO THE GENERAL SATISFACTION OF ALL PEOPLES CONCERNED."

6. COMMENT: CERTAINLY "SOME"
AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE
RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND SOME
BUY SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS. MOREOVER, FOR ALL WE KNOW SOME
COUNTRIES NOW REGARD CAPE SEA ROUTE AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
BEFORE, AND SOME HAVE LESSER REGARD THAN PREVIOUSLY FOR
SWAPO. HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT IN PUTTING HIS CASE VORSTER
HAS INDULGED IN NO SMALL AMOUNT OF HYPERBOLE. WE BELIEVE
THAT HE HAS GREATLY OVERSTATED ANY SUCCESS OF HIS EFFORTS
AT DETENTE WITH REST OF AFRICA, THAT MOST AFRICAN STATES
REMAIN ADAMANTLY HOSTILE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND WILL CONTINUE
TO DO SO UNLESS THERE IS FUNDAMENTAL MOVE AWAY FROM
APARTHEID. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY WISH TO COMMENT FROM THEIR
VANTAGE POINTS. AS FOR HIS ASSERTION THAT THERE IS A RAPPORT
AMONG SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS AND WHITES WHICH ASSURES THAT
SOLUTION OF THE RACE PROBLEM, WE THINK VORSTER IS EITHER
DELUDING HIMSELF OR TRYING TO DELUDE OTHERS.
BOWDLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750163-0846
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750563/aaaacces.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VORSTER PATS HIMSELF ON BACK, SAYS "PEACE OFFENSIVE" HAS HAD MAJOR SUCCESSES
TAGS: PFOR, SF, XA, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006